

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. When strikethrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, and 18, and CANCEL claims 1-10, 13, and 16 in accordance with the following:

A8  
1. (CANCELLED)

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CANCELLED)

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (CANCELLED)

7. (CANCELLED)

8. (CANCELLED)

9. (CANCELLED)

10. (CANCELLED)

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The arithmetic and logic unit as claimed in claim-~~10~~ 12, wherein-~~said the~~ fourth part performs initialization based on prediction information given to the branch instruction.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~An arithmetic and logic unit ~~as claimed in claim-10,~~ comprising:

a first part performing a branch prediction in response to a branch instruction;  
a second part updating a transition probability of the branch prediction according to whether a branch is actually made;  
a third part detecting that a process is switched; and  
a fourth part initializing branch prediction information when the third part detects that the process is switched,

wherein-~~said the~~ fourth part performs initialization according to a branch destination of the branch instruction.

13. (CANCELLED)

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method as claimed in claim-~~13~~ 15, wherein-~~the step e)-performs said~~ initializing comprises performing initialization based on prediction information given to the branch instruction.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~A branch prediction method ~~as claimed in claim-13,~~ comprising:

performing a branch prediction in response to a branch instruction;  
updating a transition probability of the branch prediction according to whether a branch is actually made;  
detecting that a process is switched; and  
initializing branch prediction information when said detecting detects that the process is switched,

wherein-~~the step e)-performs said~~ initializing comprises performing initialization according to a branch destination of the branch instruction.

16. (CANCELLED)

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The information processing apparatus as claimed in claim ~~16~~ 18, wherein ~~said the~~ fourth part performs initialization based on prediction information given to the branch instruction.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~ An information processing apparatus ~~as claimed in claim 16,~~ comprising:

a first part performing a branch prediction in response to a branch instruction;

a second part updating a transition probability of the branch prediction according to whether a branch is actually made;

a third part detecting that a process is switched; and

a fourth part initializing branch prediction information when the third part detects that the process is switched.

wherein ~~said the~~ fourth part performs initialization according to a branch destination of the branch instruction.